

FORTUNE AND FATE: **THE DEAL**

MARVEL

4

WONG
CRESTA
ROSENBERG

STAR WARS™
DOCTOR APHRA



STAR WARS

FORTUNE AND FATE part 4 THE DEAD

Doctor Aphra and her team were hired by Detta Yao to find the Rings of Uagale, mysterious ancient artifacts of untold power. There's just one tiny but extremely dangerous detail — Ronen Tagge, scion of the infamous and insanely powerful Tagge family, has his eyes on the prize.

Aphra's team tracked the rings to an ancient city made of living bone on Dianth. But they were separated right before Tagge's mercenaries arrived. Fortunately, Aphra activated the city's booby traps and escaped capture while Eustacia found one of the rings!

Unfortunately, Detta's double-crossed Aphra. Oh, and so has Just Lucky! It's a bit of a mess...

701107
11EVN1 K0E7K



DOCTOR CHECCI APHRA

3K10
077NKA0KA



BLACK KARSANTAN

7V10K
VK0



DETTA YAO

0708V10N07
V10N07K10K0



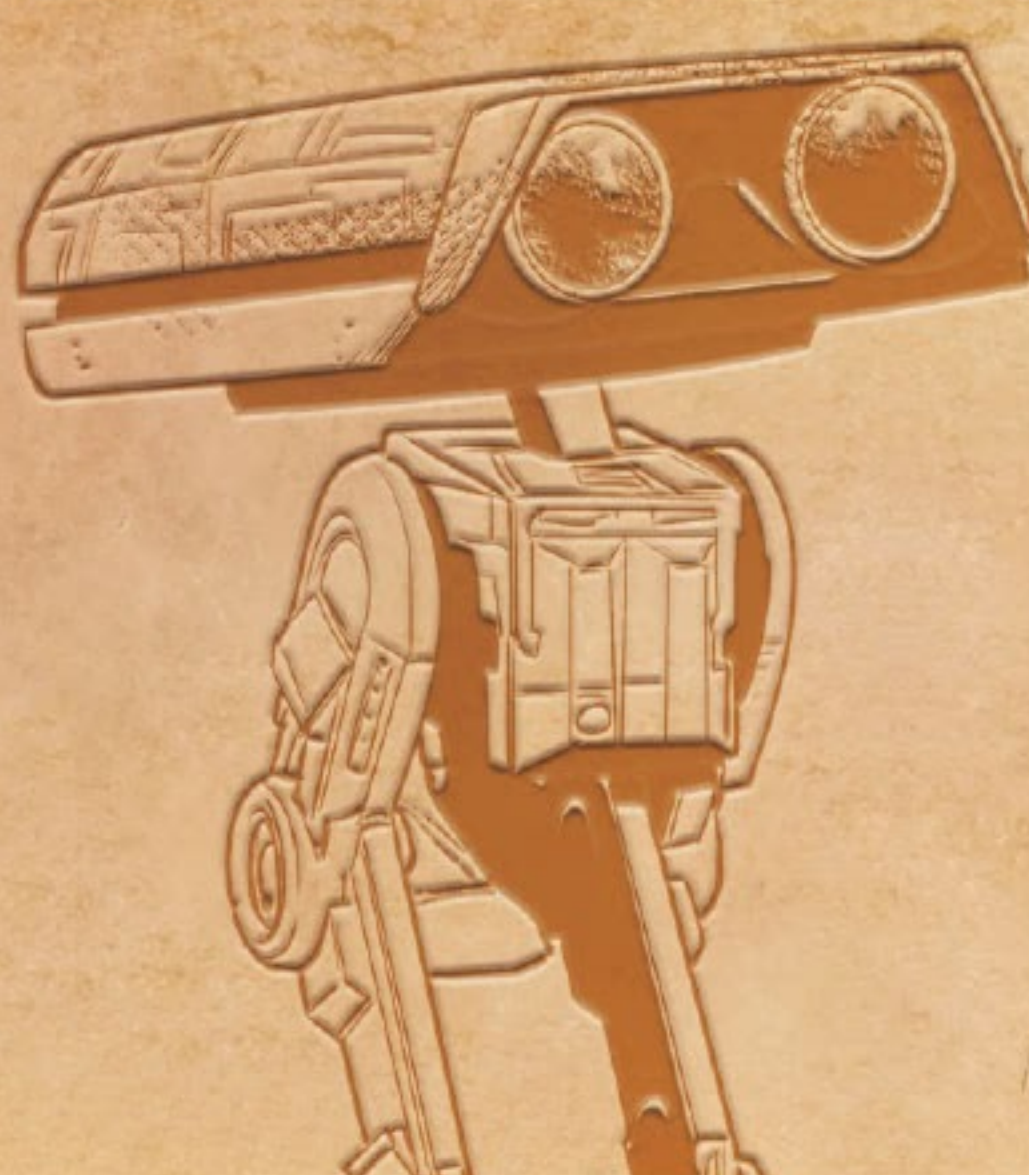
PROFESSOR EUSTACIA OKKA

70N0
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JUST LUCKY

0K-418



TA-418

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RONEN TAGGE

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Catacombs
of Vaale.
Dianth.

ALL THIS
FUSS OVER THE
RINGS OF
VAALE.

MAKE SURE
TO COVER
THE EXIT.

I DON'T
WANT ANYONE
GETTING OUT.

GOTCHA,
LUCKY.

I STILL
THINK WE SHOULD
HAVE *KILLED*
HER, BOSS.

THUNK

NAH.
THAT'S NOT
MY *STYLE*.

SHE SURE AS
HECK ISN'T GOING
TO LIKE BEING TRAPPED
DOWN THERE...POSSIBLY
FOREVER...BUT WE'RE
ALL JUST DOING WHAT
WE GOTTA DO TO
SURVIVE.

APHRA
KNOWS THAT
BETTER THAN
ANYONE.

SHE
WON'T HOLD
IT AGAINST
ME.



I'M GOING TO KILL HIM.

SLOWLY. PAINFULLY. IN LITTLE PIECES.



CRRRRK

WRRGHHH!

YEP. AND THEN I'M GOING TO KILL THOSE LITTLE PIECES.

WHY DIDN'T LUCKY TAKE US OUT?

DUNNO. BUT HE SHOULD HAVE.



AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS THAT MURDER ISN'T A RESPONSIBLE SOLUTION?



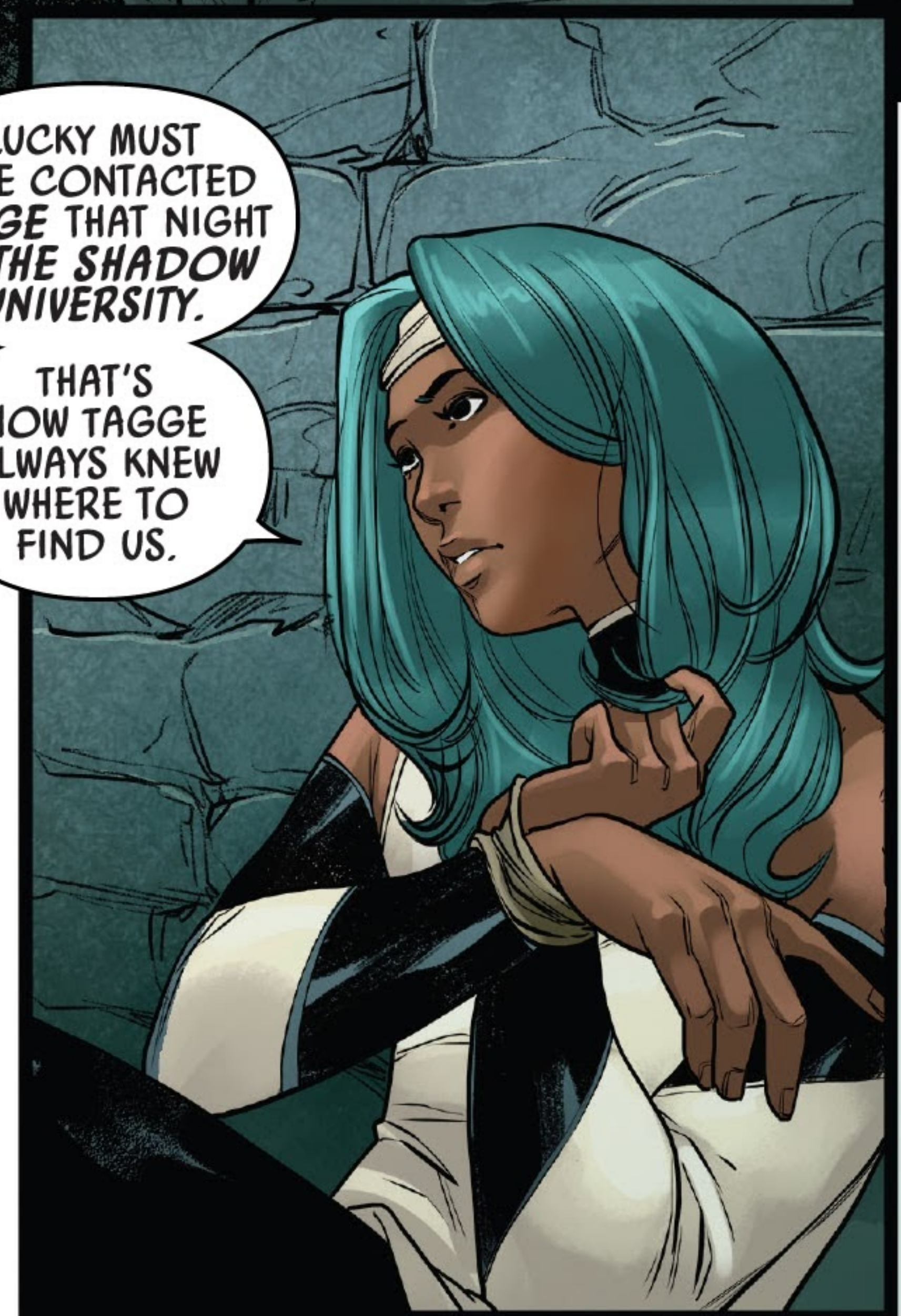
GRWOW

WELL, THAT'S A BUST. SORRY, BLACK K.

WE'LL HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER WAY OUT.

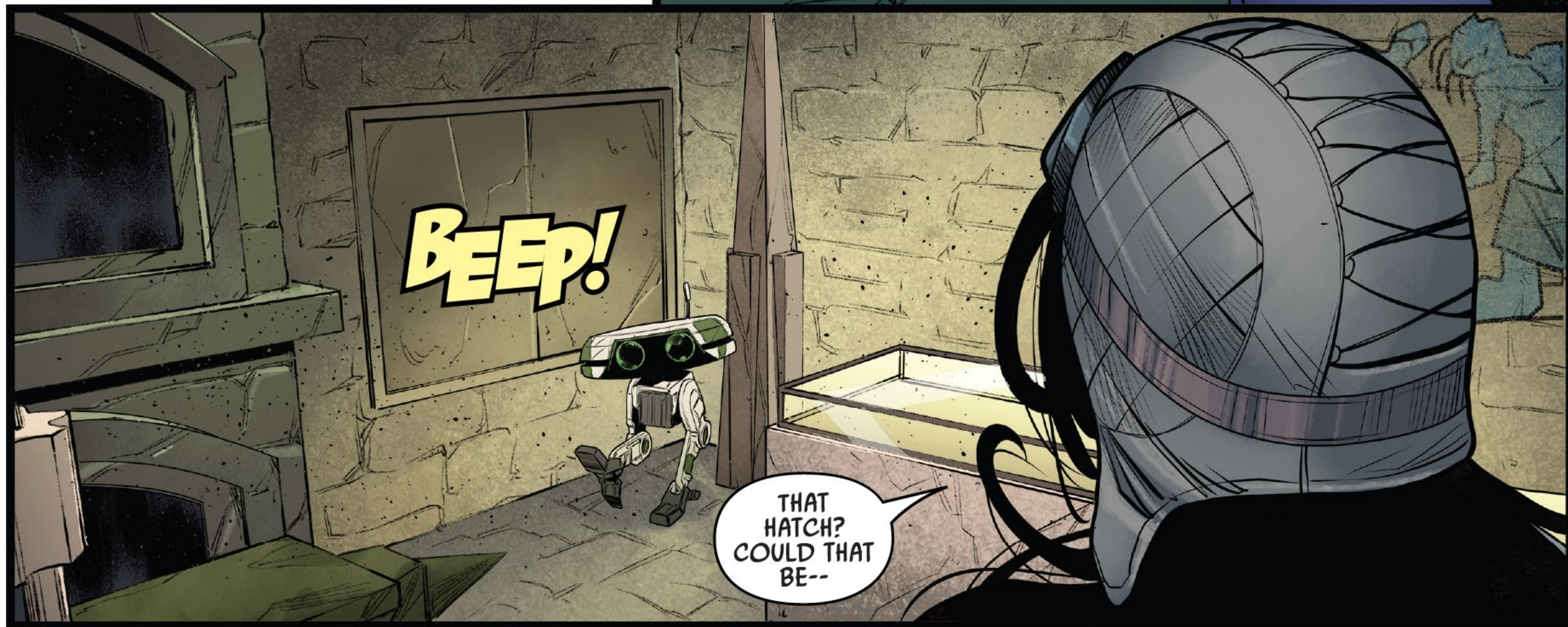
LUCKY MUST HAVE CONTACTED TAGGE THAT NIGHT AT THE SHADOW UNIVERSITY.

THAT'S HOW TAGGE ALWAYS KNEW WHERE TO FIND US.



KEEP YOUR FRIENDS CLOSE AND YOUR TARGETS CLOSER, HM, DETTA?

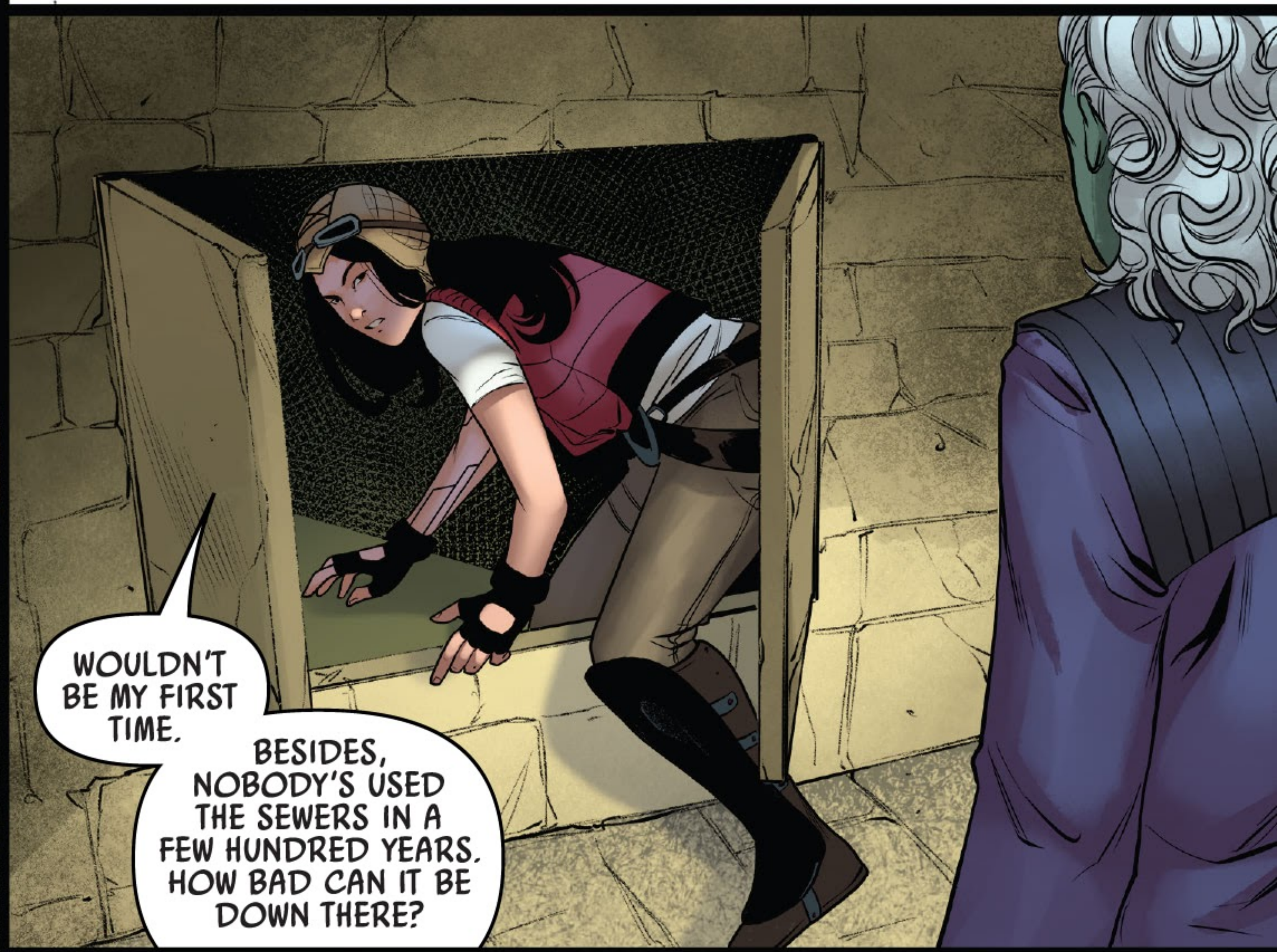
PROFESSOR OKKA...





THE
GARBAGE!

HOW
APT.



WOULDN'T
BE MY FIRST
TIME.

BESIDES,
NOBODY'S USED
THE SEWERS IN A
FEW HUNDRED YEARS.
HOW BAD CAN IT BE
DOWN THERE?



THESE
TUNNELS ARE
LIKE A MAZE.

THEY SHOULD
LEAD OUT OF THE
CITY, BUT IT FEELS
LIKE WE'RE GOING
IN CIRCLES.

IT'S
LIKE THE
WALLS KEEP
MOVING.

THAT...
SHOULDN'T
BE POSSIBLE.
BUT...



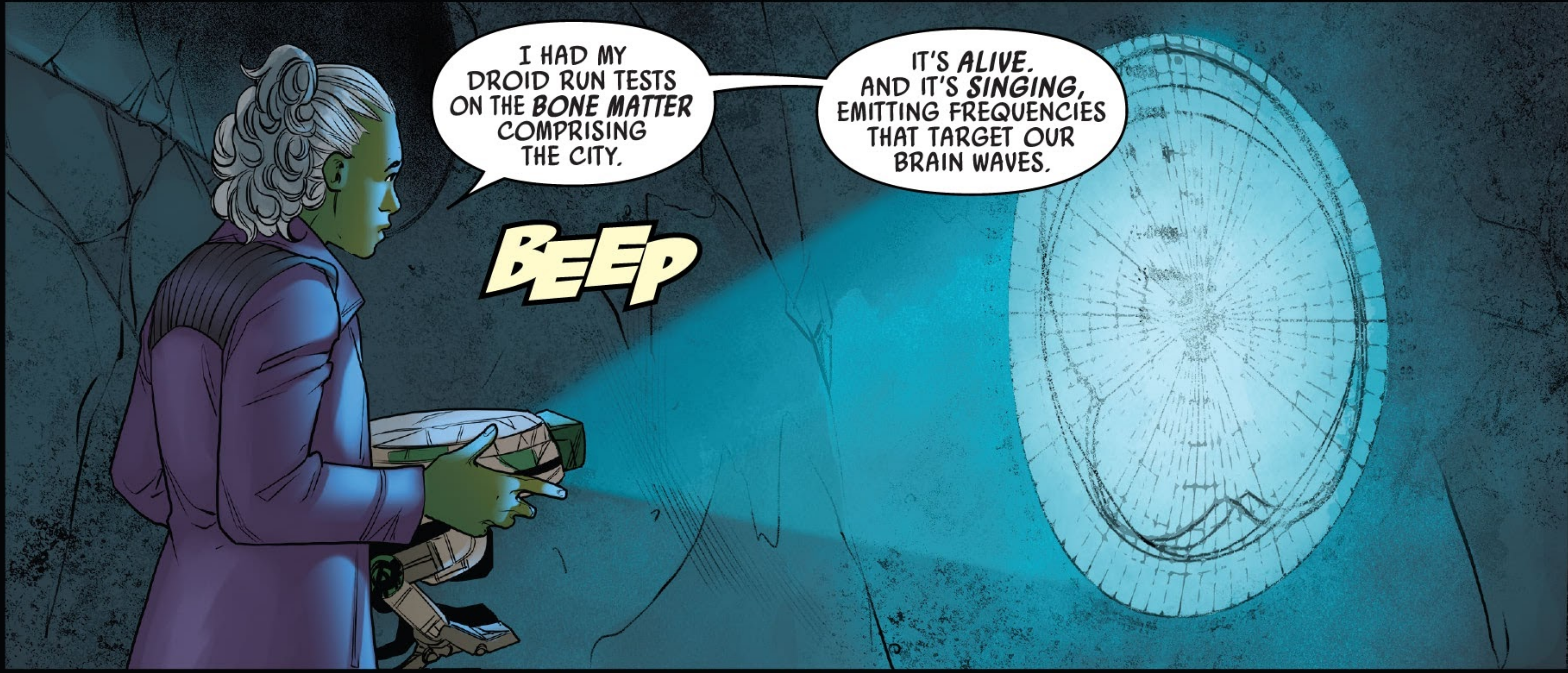
THEY'RE
PULSING.

THEY
WEREN'T
DOING THAT
A SECOND
AGO.

I FEEL LIKE
I'M GOING
CRAZY.



YOU
MIGHT
BE.



I HAD MY DROID RUN TESTS ON THE **BONE MATTER** COMPRISING THE CITY.

IT'S **ALIVE**. AND IT'S **SINGING**, EMITTING FREQUENCIES THAT TARGET OUR BRAIN WAVES.

BEEP

"AS IT GROWS, IT MUTATES AND AFFECTS ITS SURROUNDINGS, SPREADING ITS SONG.

"**THE RINGS OF VAALE** DIDN'T DRIVE THE PEOPLE OF VAALE MAD--THE **LIVING CITY** DID. IT WAS **DESIGNED** TO--THE ARCHITECTS' GREATEST SECURITY SYSTEM GONE **ROGUE**.

"AND NOW IT'S AFFECTING **US**.

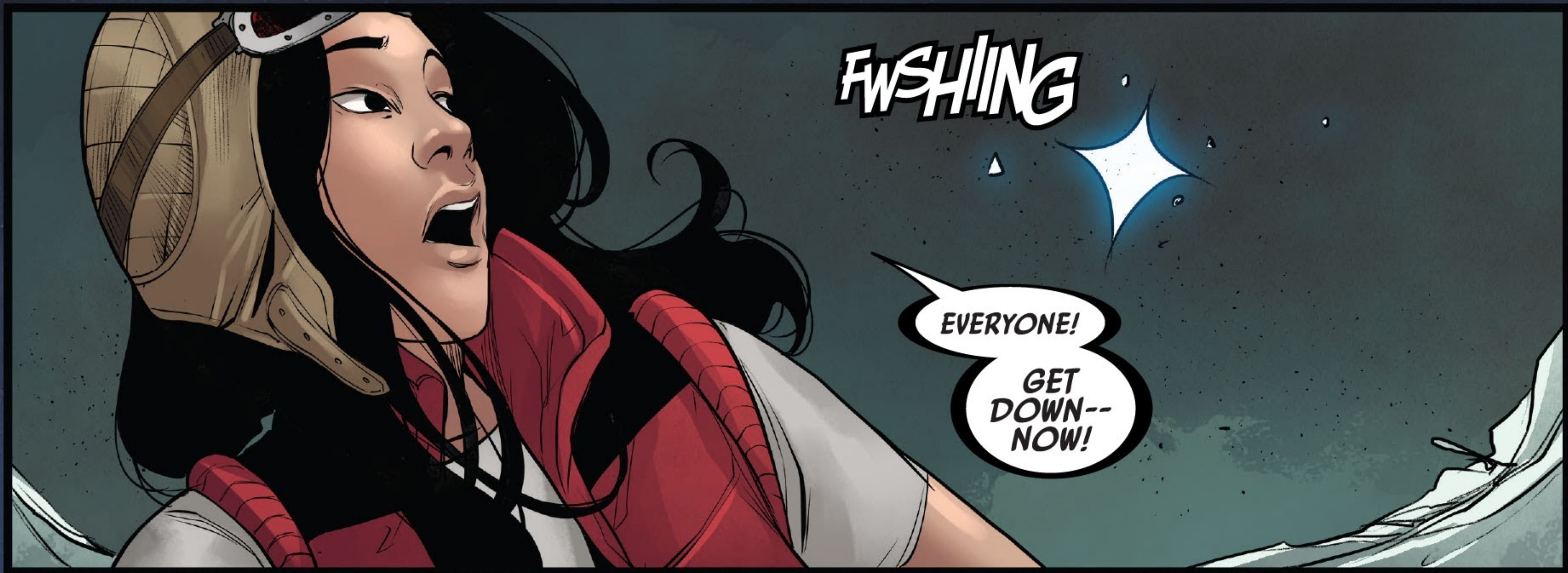
"MAKING US **SEE** AND **HEAR** THINGS.

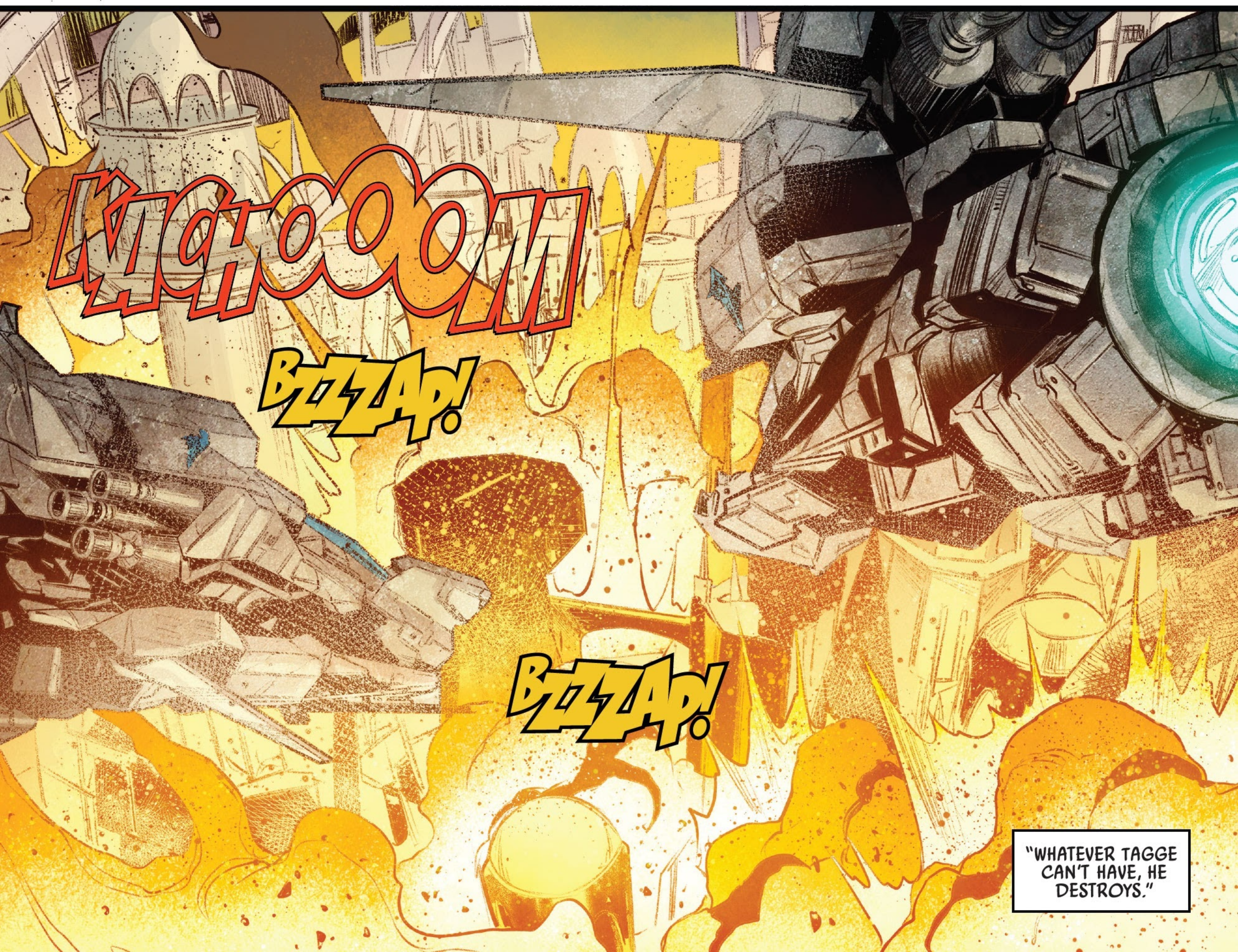
"IF WE DON'T LEAVE...

"...WE'LL END UP JUST LIKE THE **LOST ARCHITECTS** OF VAALE."

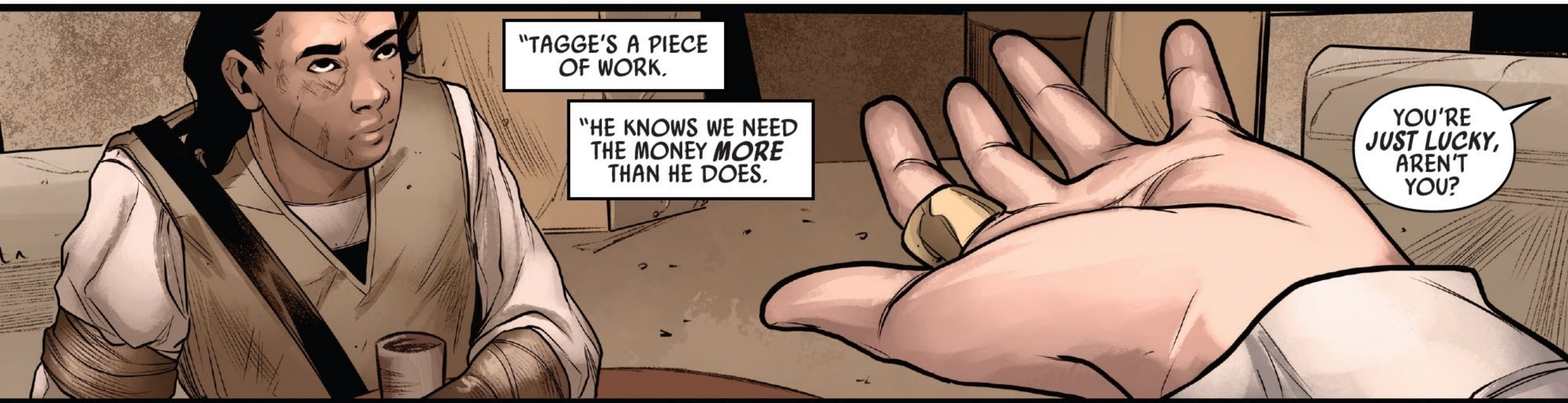








Meanwhile...



Canto Bight.

HERE
TO SEE
TAGGE?

HE'S
WAITING
FOR
YOU.

GLORIOUS.

AT LAST,
THE RING OF
FORTUNE IS
MINE.



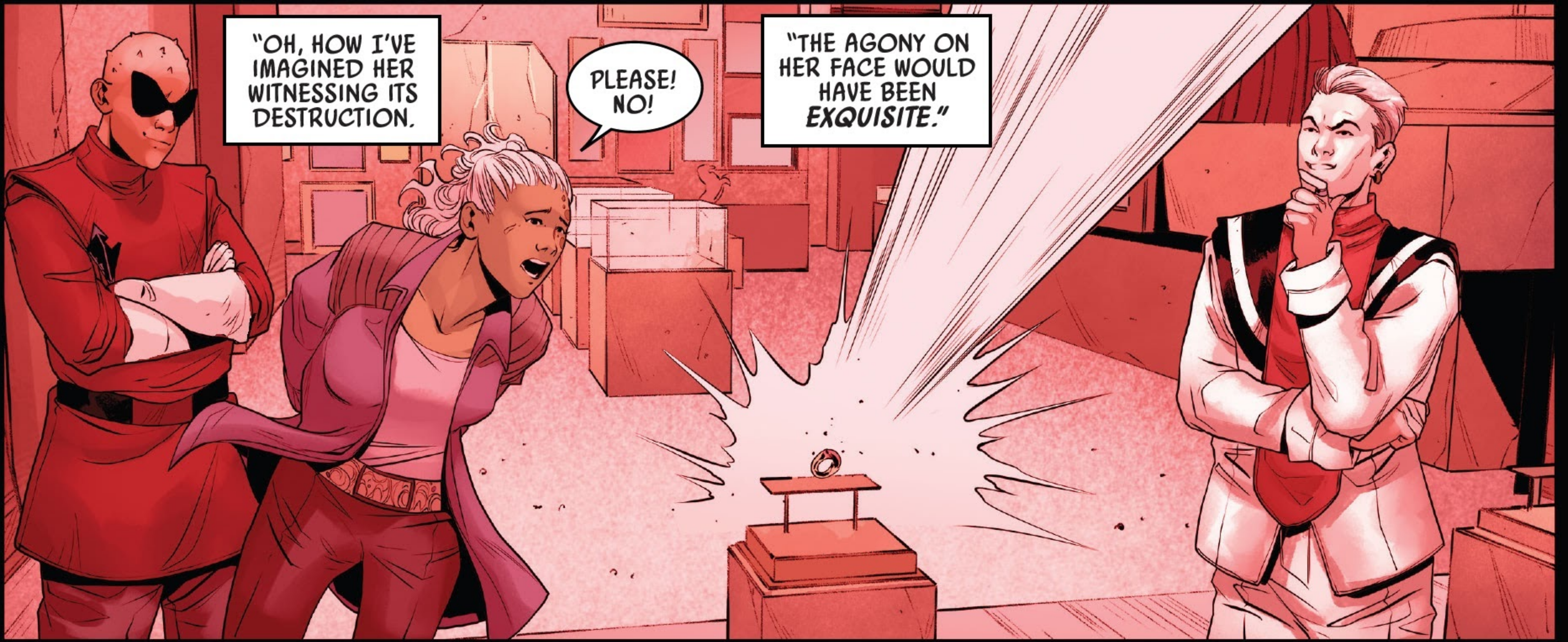
WELL
DONE,
LUCKY.



HOWEVER...
I ASKED FOR
TWO RINGS.
I SEE ONLY
ONE.

AND YOU
FAILED TO
BRING ME DOCTOR
EUSTACIA
OKKA.





"OH, HOW I'VE IMAGINED HER WITNESSING ITS DESTRUCTION.

PLEASE!
NO!

"THE AGONY ON HER FACE WOULD HAVE BEEN EXQUISITE."



I'M CUTTING YOUR PAY. ONE THIRD OF THE JOB, ONE THIRD OF THE MONEY.

WHAT?!

YOU CAN'T DO THAT!



THAT **WASN'T** THE DEAL, TAGGE.

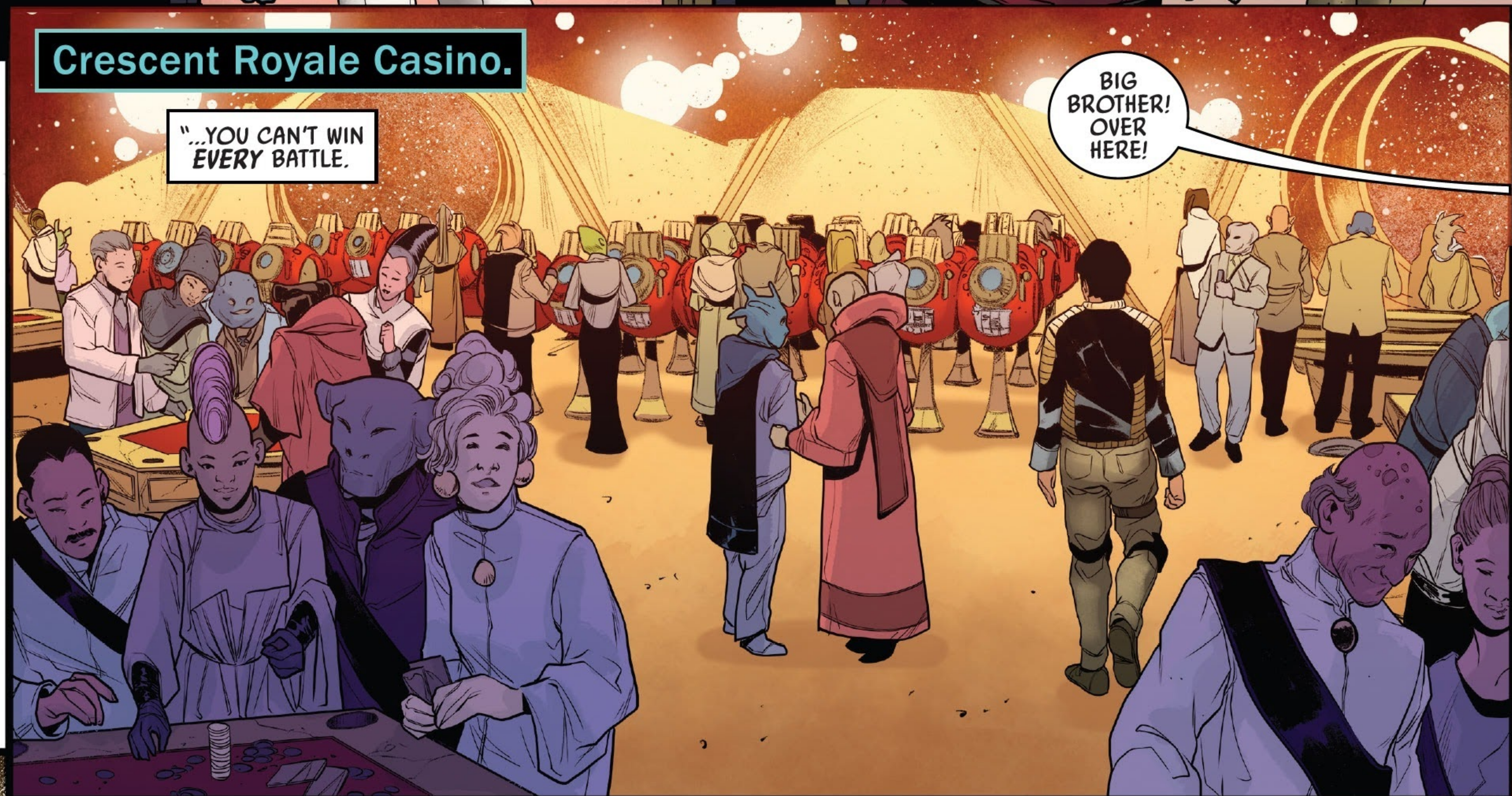


YOUR LITTLE **BROTHER'S** ENJOYING HIMSELF AT THE **GAMES** TONIGHT.

PERHAPS YOU SHOULD PAY HIM A VISIT. MAKE SURE HE'S STILL IN **GOOD HEALTH**.



...SURE THING, **BOSS**.





MAYBE
ONE OF THESE
SHIPS STILL
WORKS...



THAT
MONSTER.



NO
WAY--A HIGH
REPUBLIC SHIP?
CENTURIES OLD?
INTACT?

I NEED
TO SEE THE
INSIDE RIGHT
NOW.



AREN'T YOU
GORGEIOUS.

...AND STILL
KICKING!



SO, NOW
WHAT?

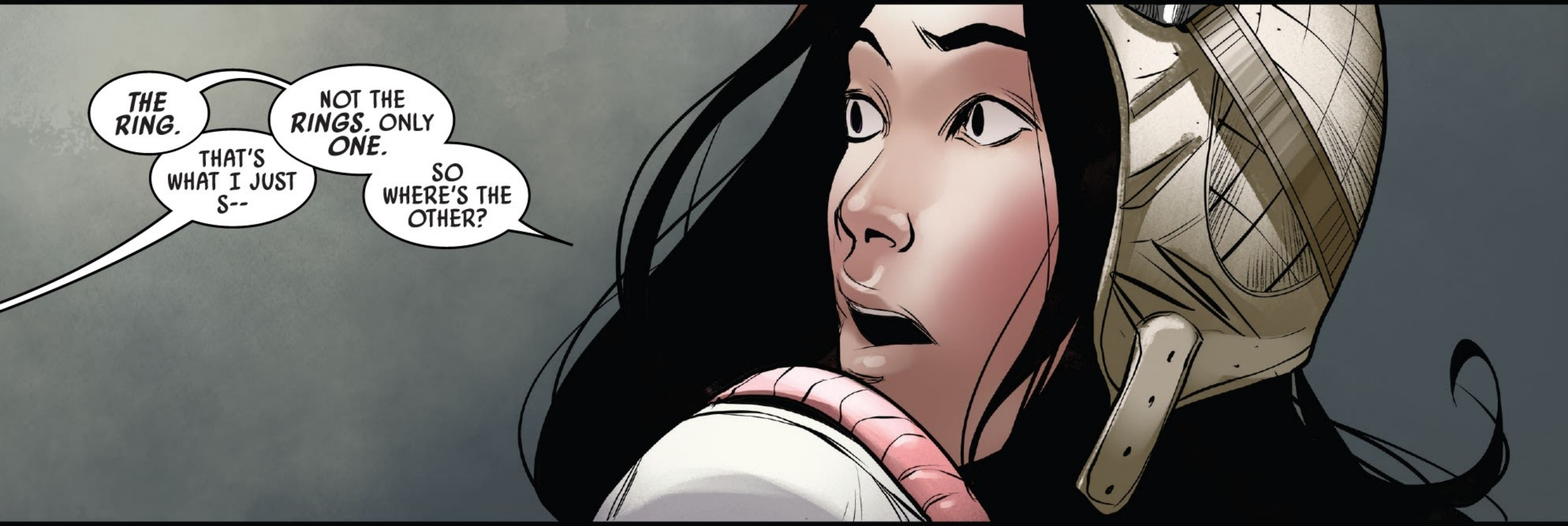


THE
RINGS ARE
GONE.

SO IS
THE CITY.

CENTURIES OF
HISTORY, MY FAITH IN *ANY*
OF YOU AND MY LIFE'S
WORK WERE ALL JUST
VAPORIZED.

AND NOW
TAGGE HAS
THE RING OF
FORTUNE.



THE
RING.

NOT THE
RINGS. ONLY
ONE.

THAT'S
WHAT I JUST
S--

SO
WHERE'S THE
OTHER?



IF IT WAS
IN THE CITY,
IT'S GONE
NOW.

BUT TAGGE
WOULDN'T HAVE
NUKED THE CITY
IF HE THOUGHT IT
WAS STILL
THERE.



UGH,
I'M MISSING
SOMETHING.

I DON'T
LIKE THAT.



Cantonica.



APHRA
TO TAGGE,
COME IN.

IS THIS
THING
ON?



NEXT TIME
YOU SLICE
SOMEONE'S DROID,
MAYBE DO A **BETTER**
JOB ENCRYPTING THE
CONNECTION.

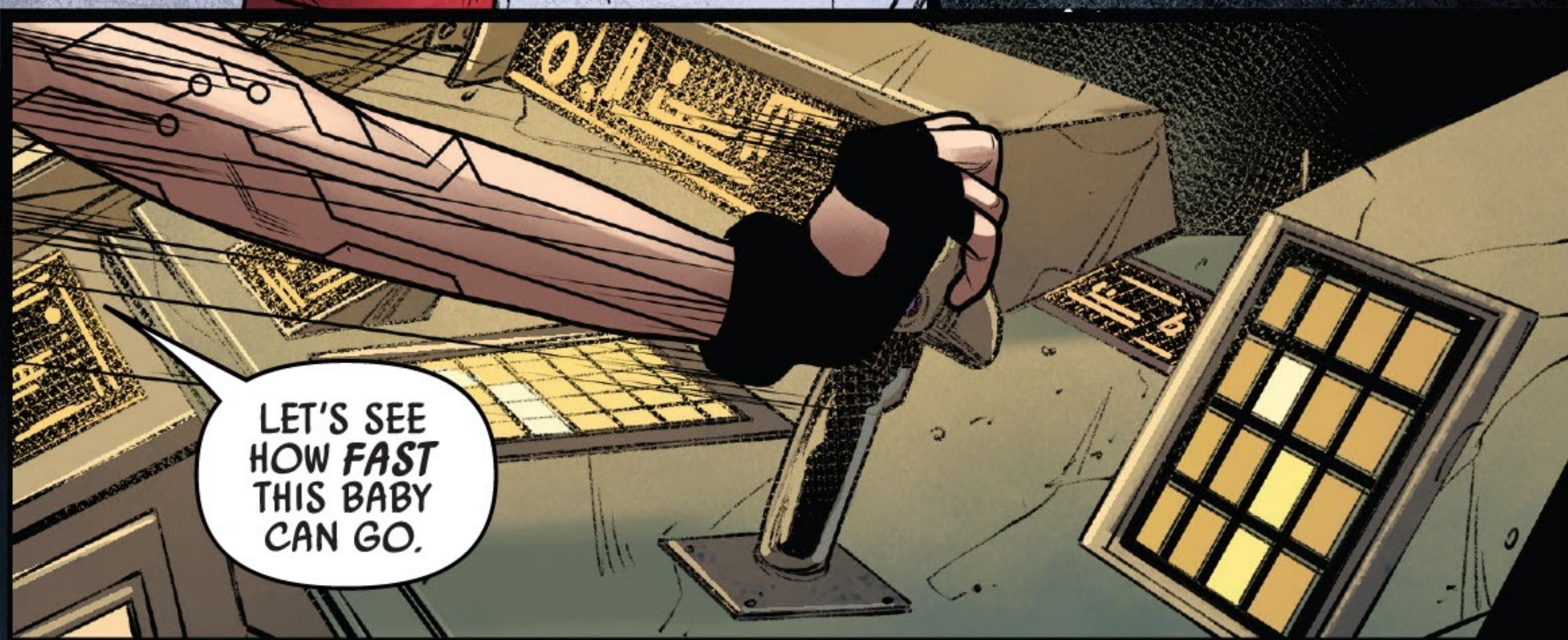
YOU WERE
DEPRESSINGLY
EASY TO
TRACK.



SIR! THAT SHIP!

ANYWAY, I'VE GOT SOMETHING YOU WANT.

AFTER ALL, WHAT GOOD IS A SHOW WITHOUT AN AUDIENCE?



LET'S SEE HOW FAST THIS BABY CAN GO.



NOW COME GET IT!

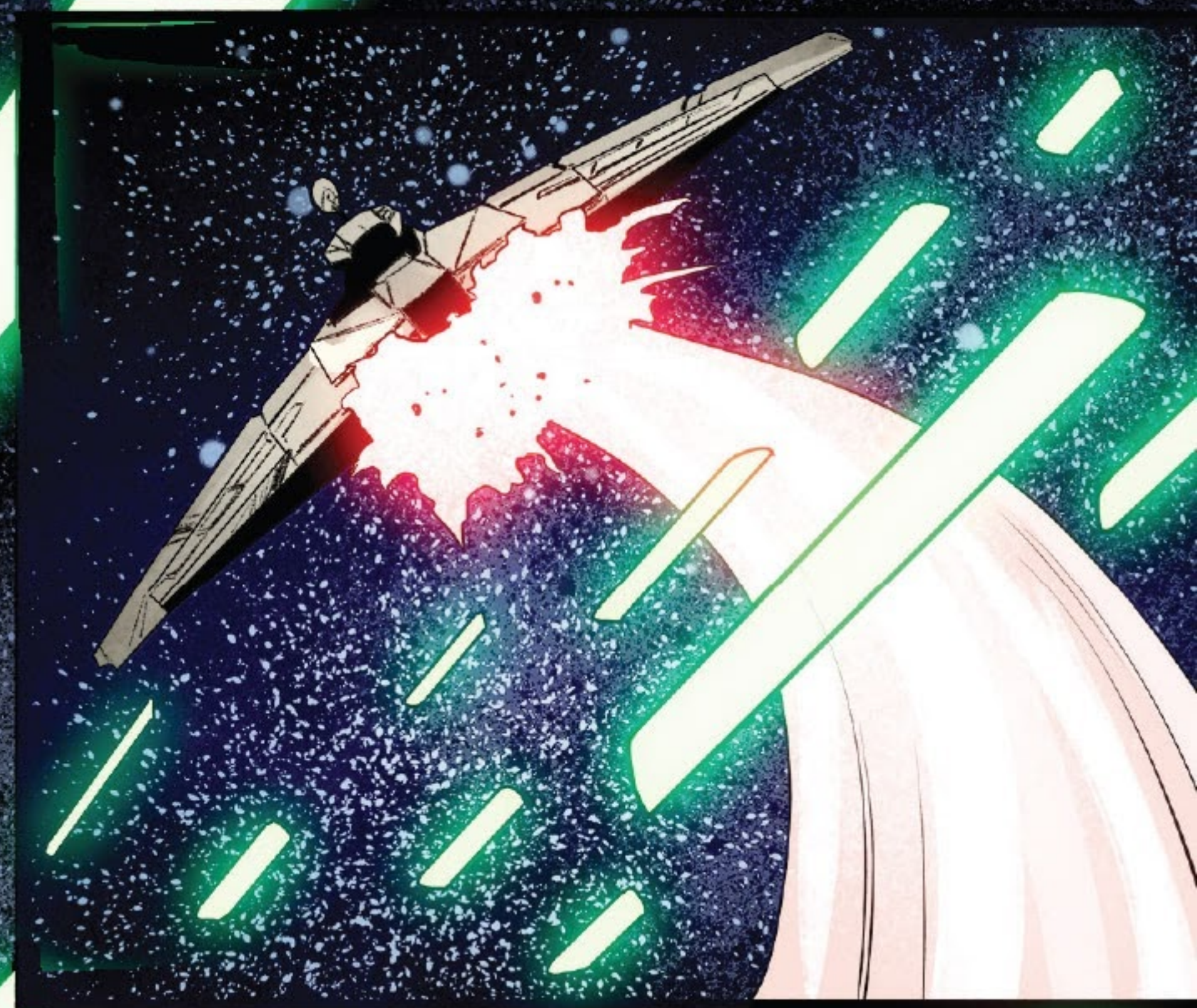
AFTER HER!

FWWWN SHOOOM!

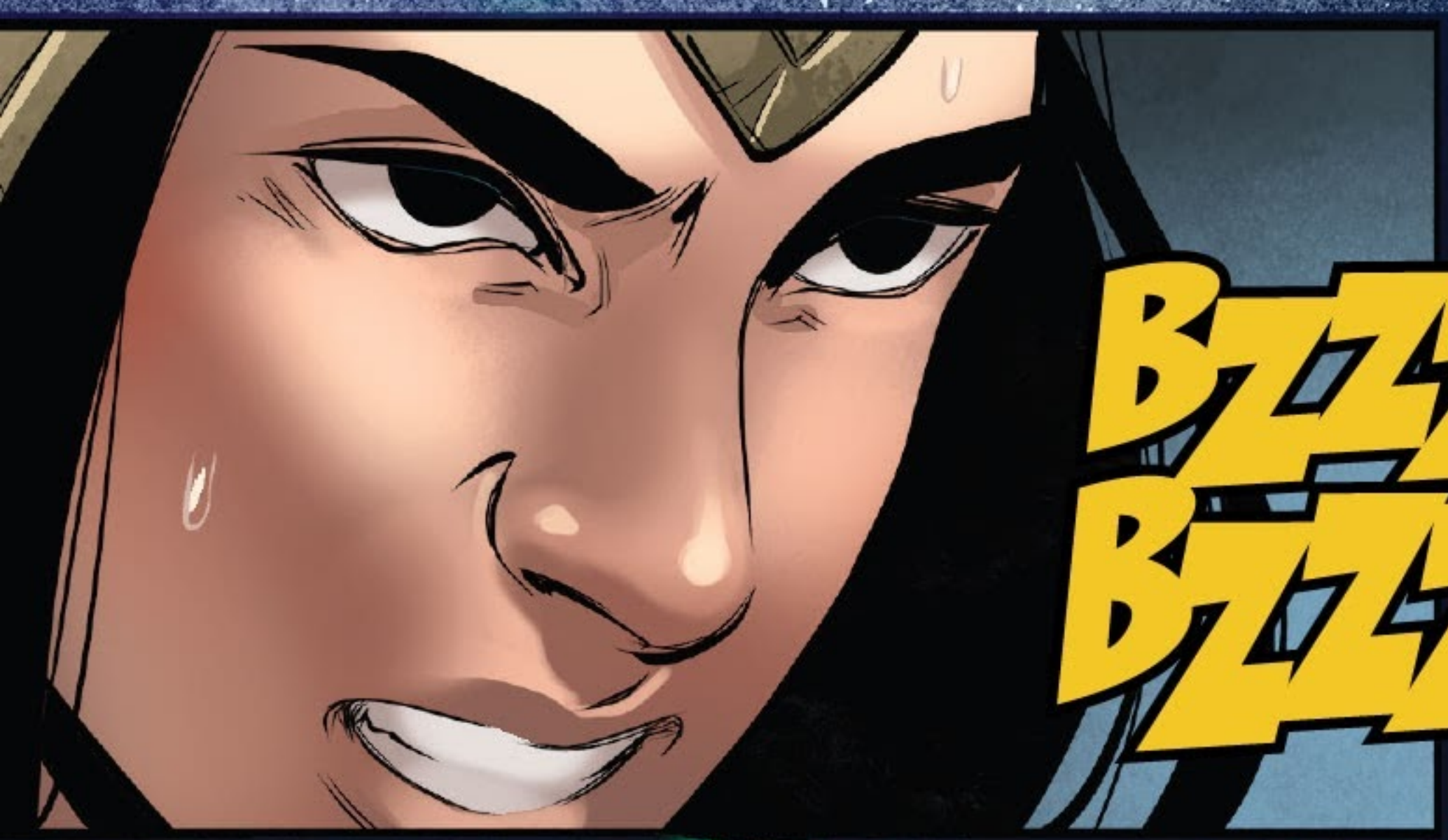


VSSHEW!

VSSHEW!



FWOOSH!



**BZZZAP!
BZZZZZP!**

CHOOM!

KABANG!

MAIN
THRUSTER'S
HIT.







I'M SO *VERY* GLAD YOU'RE HERE. WON'T YOU JOIN ME FOR A CHAT?



AND, PROFESSOR OKKA...I HAVE SOMETHING *SPECIAL* TO SHOW YOU THAT I WAS AFRAID YOU'D MISS.



WELL, YOU KNOW BETTER THAN TO KEEP A LADY WAITING.

I REALLY, REALLY HOPE THIS WORKS.

To be continued in
DOCTOR APHRA #5...

DOCTOR APHRA NEXT ISSUE!

APHRA CAN GET AWAY WITH THE PRICELESS RINGS OF VAALE OR SAVE HER FRIENDS. AND RONEN TAGGE IS ABOUT TO BECOME THE MOST POWERFUL BEING IN THE GALAXY!

**BY ALYSSA WONG AND MARIKA CRESTA
COVER BY VALENTINA REMENAR**

A LONG TIME AGO IN A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY IS A LOT EASIER TO GET TO THAN YOU THINK! WRITE US AT STARWARS@MARVEL.COM TO MAKE IT INTO A FUTURE LETTERS PAGE. MARK YOUR NOTES "OKAY TO PRINT."